

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Guadalupe Center

other names/site number Agnes Ward Amberg Club

2. Location

street & number 1015 Avenida de Cesar Chavez (formerly 1015 W. 23rd St.) [N/A] not for publication

city or town Kansas City [N/A] vicinity

state MO code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64107

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National
Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the
property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally
[] statewide [x] locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments [x].)

Mark A. Miles

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

07/22/03

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[] entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the

National Register.

[] removed from the

National Register

[] other, explain

See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing Noncontributing

1 0 buildings

0 0 sites

0 0 structures

0 0 objects

1 0 Total

Name of related multiple property
listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

SOCIAL: civic
RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium
DOMESTIC: institutional housing

Current Functions

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

foundation limestone
walls stucco
roof synthetic
other terra cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(8-86)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

SOCIAL HISTORY

ETHNIC HERITAGE – Hispanic

Periods of Significance

1936-1953

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Raney and Corman/architect

Pavlik, Frank H./builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government City Hall

☐ University

☒ Other:

Name of repository: Kansas City Public Library
Guadalupe Center

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**A. Zone Easting Northing
15 361890 4327510

B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing

D. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Cydnev E. Millstein and Mary Ann Warfieldorganization Architectural and Historical Research, LLC date November 25, 2002street & number P.O. Box 22551 telephone 816.363.0567city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64113**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Guadalupe Centerstreet & number 1015 W. 23rd Street telephone _____city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64106

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Guadalupe Center
Kansas City, Jackson County, MO

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Guadalupe Center building, 1015 Avenida de Cesar Chavez (formerly 1015 W. 23rd Street), Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, was designed by the Kansas City architectural firm of Raney and Corman in 1934 and constructed in 1936 by Frank H. Pavlik. Located in Kansas City's Westside residential neighborhood, the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style building, a two-story unreinforced cinder block and stucco rectangular facility, is characterized by a prominent Mission-shaped parapet at its simple, unadorned main façade, large balcony, faux vigas, and a tiled gabled roof. Currently, the Guadalupe Center is undergoing renovation.

Directly to the east, west and south of the building is the central portion of the Westside residential neighborhood. Gage Park is located directly to the north across Avenida de Cesar Chavez. The Westside neighborhood (hereafter referred to as the Westside) continues to the north of the park.¹

Guadalupe has received a Special Project Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to partially fund the rehabilitation and expansion project as described below. Due to deteriorated conditions, it was necessary to demolish the nonoriginal south addition in the fall 2002 (extending the first four bays, moving west to east), the garage and the westernmost bay of the Guadalupe Center. These badly damaged sections of the facility were recorded prior to the initiation of construction activities, as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement.²

Although Guadalupe has been modified as stated above, the building still retains the majority of its historic features to convey its historic significance. In stable condition, its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association has been retained.

Elaboration

The main façade faces north. A prominent two-story projecting central bay featuring a Mission style parapet and small curved buttresses dominates the main façade. A single leaf, asymmetrically placed door at the first story is nonoriginal. Faux wooden vigas are placed above the second story stair landing, where nonoriginal windows were recently removed. A tiled medallion, decorated with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is placed at the center of the parapet. A large second-story continuous balcony, with

¹ The Westside Neighborhood is bounded by the Missouri River, Interstate 35 and the Kansas River.

² A Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the SHPO, and Guadalupe Center was entered into on May 23, 2002.

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carved wooden brackets and modillions, wooden columns and rail, is featured at the western bay of the main façade.

A simplified Mission style parapet marks the eastern bays of the main façade. A balconette with a metal railing and single-leaf door and screen is placed at the second story. Faux wooden vigas are placed between the first and second stories.

The east façade features a large, exterior chimney with a gabled, tiled chimney top. A balcony is featured above the single story. Due to the removal of the western wing wall unit and the non-original south addition placed at the first four bays, the interior doors (second story at the west and first and second stories at the south) are now exposed.

Other features of the Guadalupe Center include exposed rafters at the south roof line and multi-level roofs. The nonoriginal double-hung aluminum windows seen in Photograph Number 1 were removed and will be replaced with multipaned casement units. The design of these windows is based on the original plans.

Historic interior spaces feature faux beams and decorative arched fireplace at the first floor lounge area. The second floor meeting room area, originally a library room and sleeping quarters features an additional decorative arched fireplace. Interior walls are stucco and floors are concrete.

Future Plans

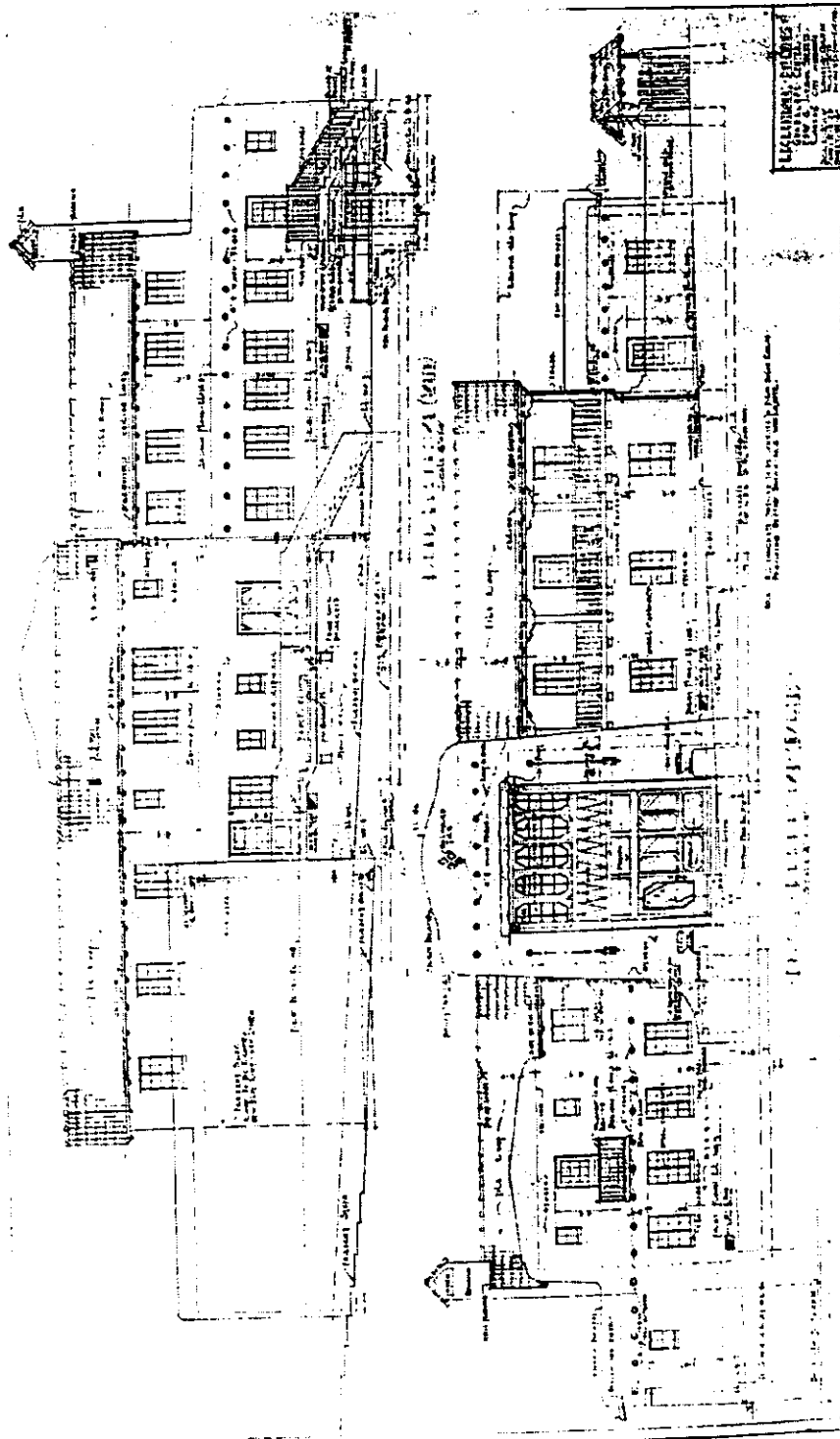
Currently, Guadalupe is undergoing construction for the rehabilitation of the building. Plans, prepared by Rafael Architects, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, include the rehabilitation of the exterior and interior spaces and an expansion of the facility. A plaza, carport and one room storage area are planned for the east side of the building. To the south, skywalks (the Calle Building) will connect the new Culinary Arts Center, currently under construction. All plans for the project were prepared in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. The Board of Guadalupe is now considering applying for Historic Tax Credits.

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Guadalupe Center - Front Elevation or North



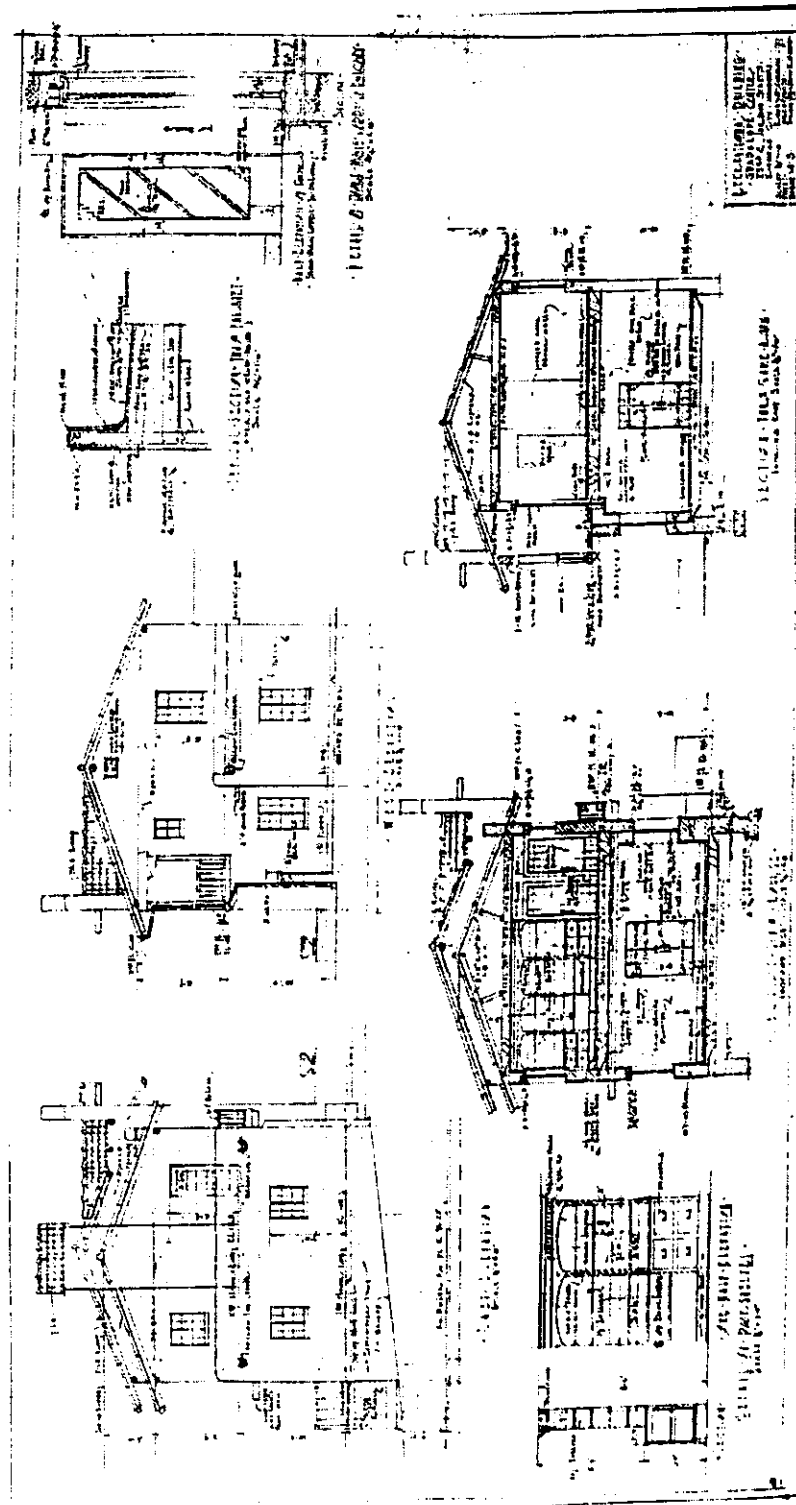
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Guadalupe Center - East & West Elevations and Sections



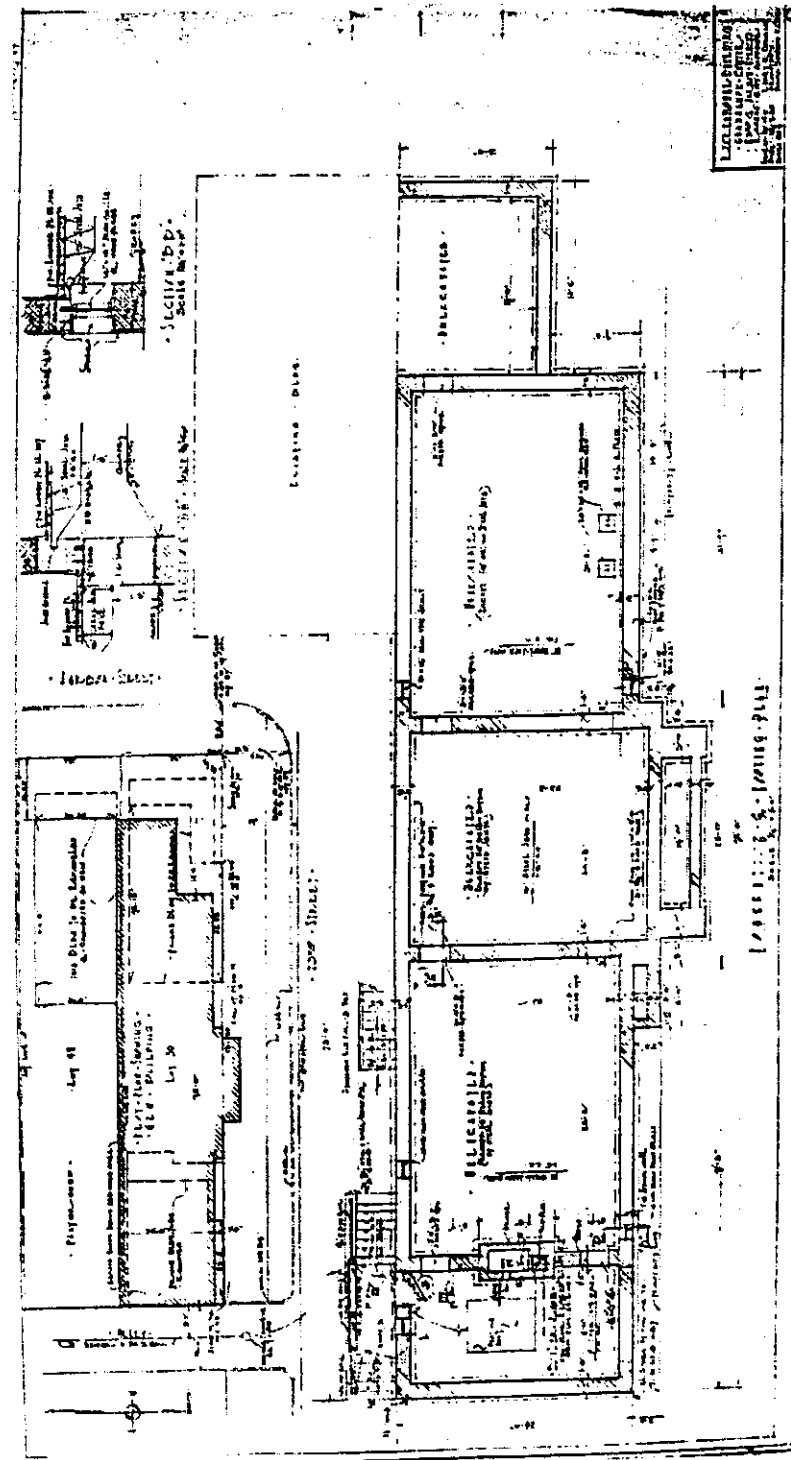
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Guadalupe Center - Foundations and Footing Plan



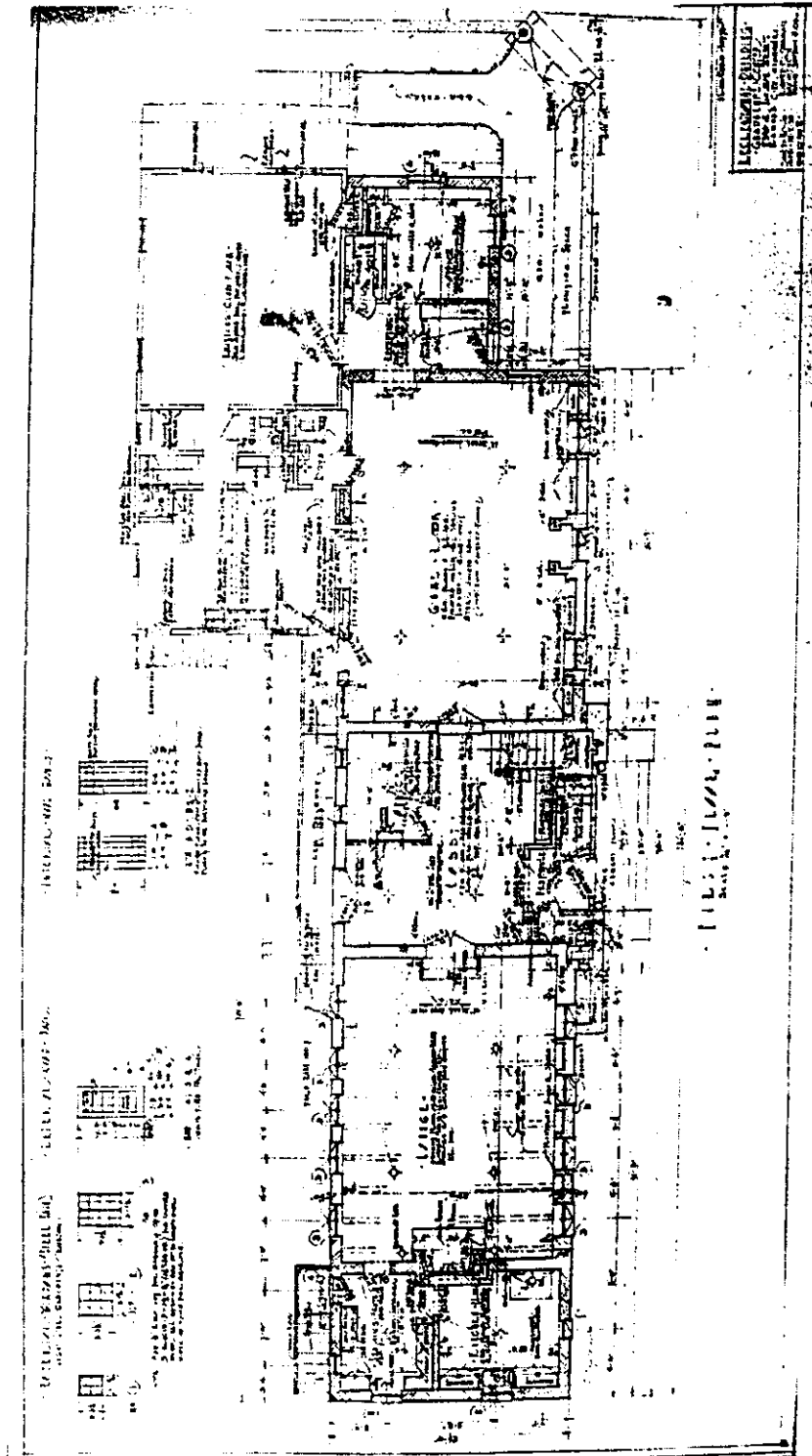
United States Department of the Interior
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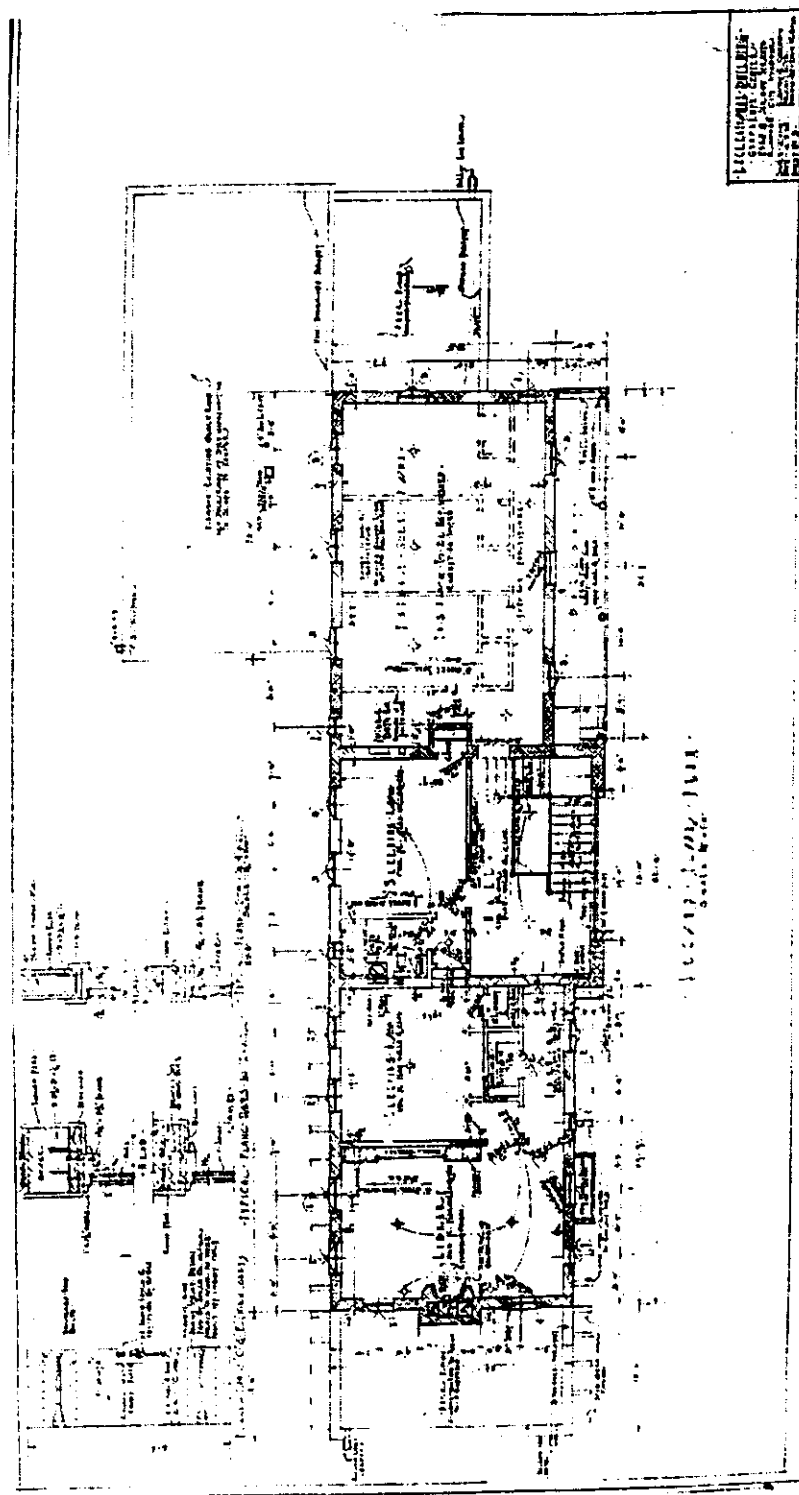
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Guadalupe Center - First Floor Plan



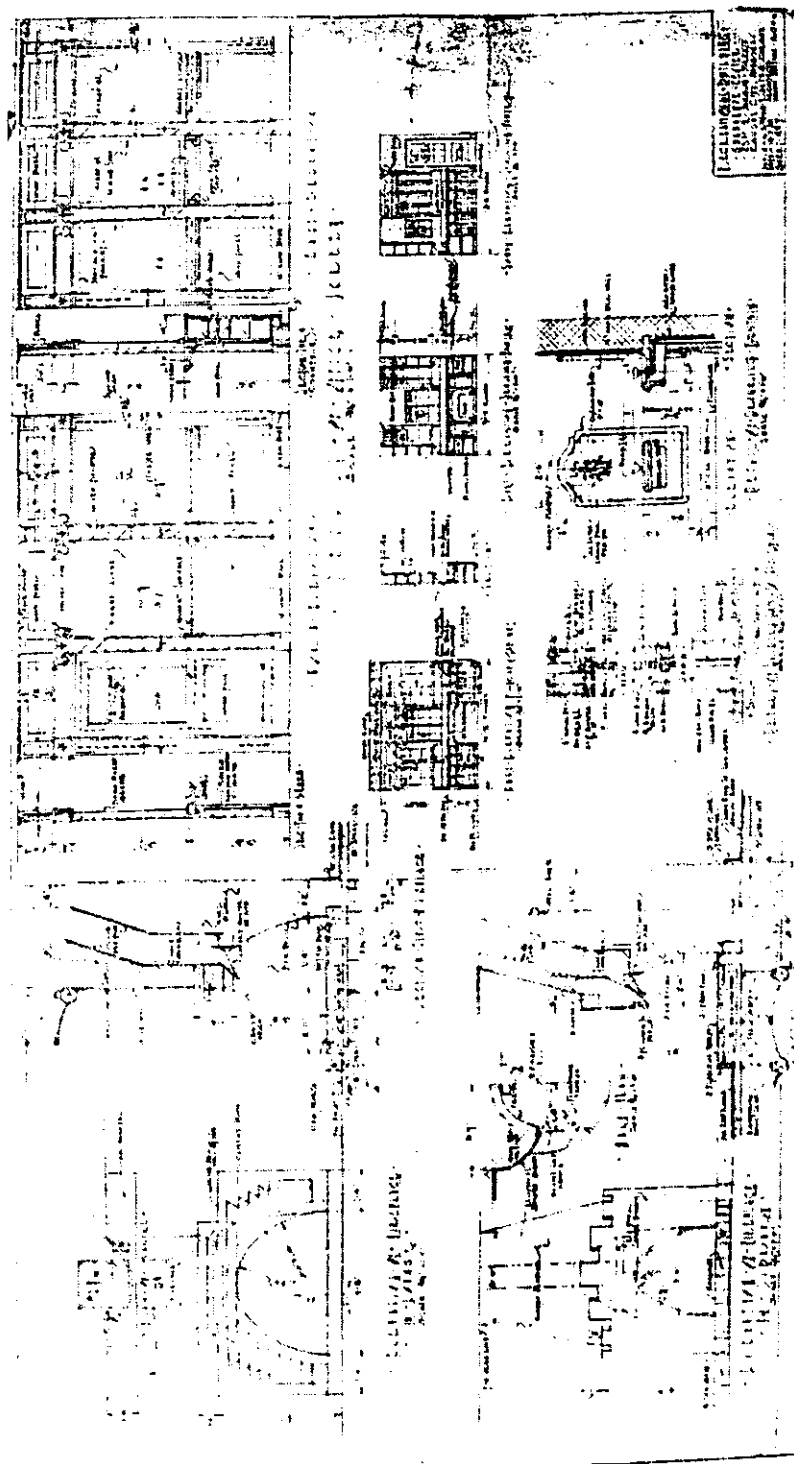


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Guadalupe Center - Various Details



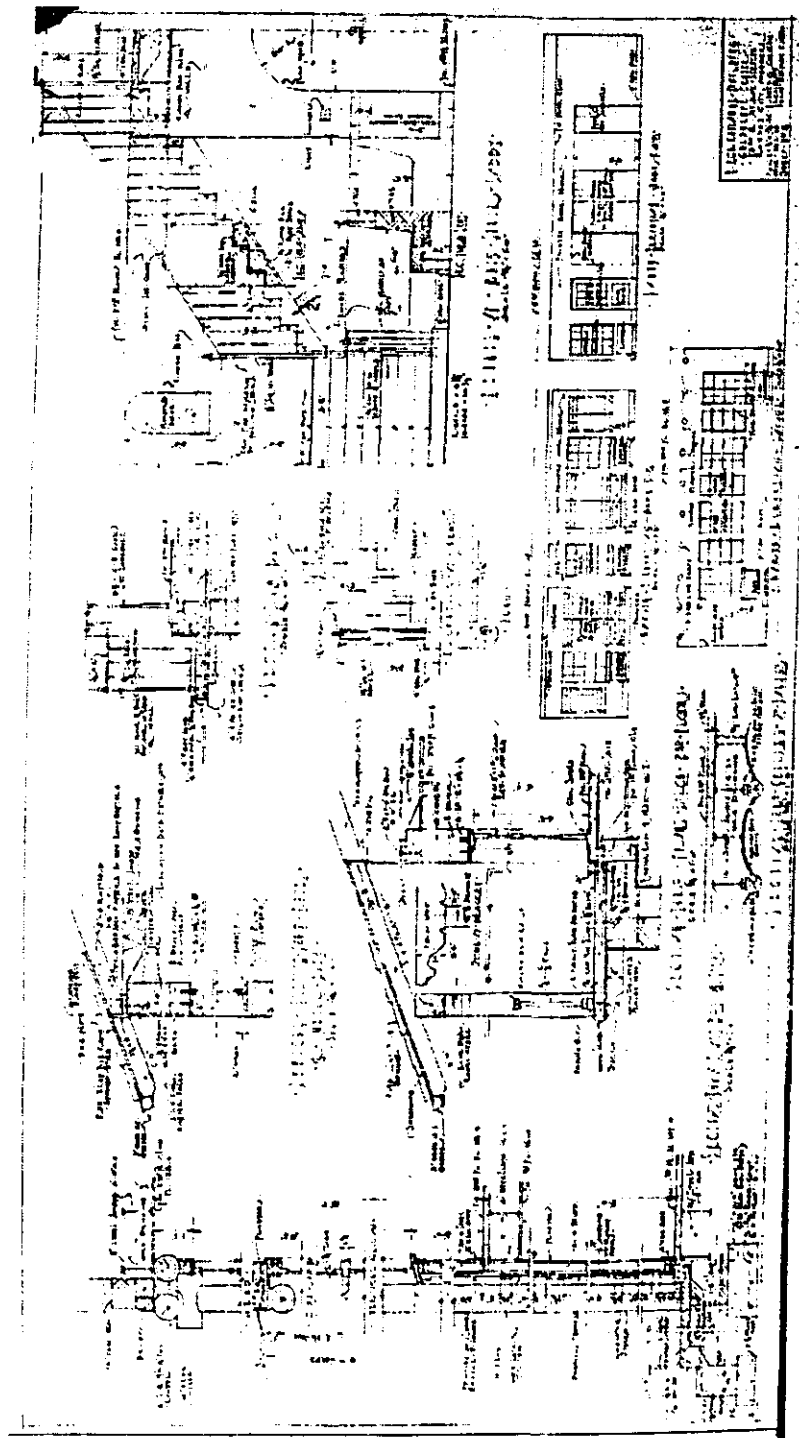
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Guadalupe Center - Details of Main Stair - Lobby, etc.



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Summary

The Guadalupe Center, located at 1015 Avenida de Cesar Chavez (formerly 1015 W. 23rd Street), Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and is locally significant in the following areas: SOCIAL HISTORY and ETHNIC HERITAGE - Hispanic. Established in 1919 by the Agnes Ward Amberg Club, a volunteer group of Catholic women, the Guadalupe Center became one of the most successful settlement houses in the metropolitan area, serving the growing Hispanic population of Kansas City's Westside Neighborhood. Under the tenure of resident director Dorothy Gallagher, the Guadalupe Center flourished and provided a variety of cultural and social services such as English classes, a medical clinic, boys and girls clubs, adult education classes, home economics and hygiene. Additionally, translators were provided to help Hispanics apply for jobs and to understand the American legal system. These services helped the Hispanic people to comfortably acclimate to a new community, while preserving their culture and tradition. With support from the Catholic Diocese and the Community Chest of Kansas City, the Guadalupe Center today remains one of the area's most productive ethnic social organizations, and quite possibly the oldest, continually operating social service agency for Hispanics in the United States. The period of significance is 1936 to 1953, the end date reflecting the arbitrary fifty-year limit for National Register listing.

Elaboration

Mexican Immigration in Kansas City: 1910-1920

As a result of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, many refugees came to the United States. Between 1910 and 1920, Mexican immigrants settled in Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and as far north as Michigan. Many followed the seasonal crop harvests in search of readily available work. Those immigrants that settled in Kansas City typically found employment in meat packinghouses and with the railroad. Housing was provided to the laborers in the form of bunkhouses that consisted of little more than cars and camps close to the railroad tracks. The railroad did not charge rent and permitted the people to occupy the bunks year round, yet housing issues were complicated by rampant discrimination.³ Mostly due to language difficulties and economic factors, the Hispanic immigrants were not accepted at Kansas City hospitals, clinics, and theaters, and other public places.⁴

³ "History of the Guadalupe Center." Guadalupe Center Records, Folder 8, Special Collection #20, Missouri Valley Room. Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri, 1-3. Prior to 1910, immigrants from Ireland, Sweden, England and Germany settled the Westside neighborhood of Kansas City.

⁴ Ibid.

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In 1914, during this period of ethnic and cultural transition, Father Jose Munoz, a refugee from the Mexican Revolution, immigrated to Kansas City. Shortly after his arrival, Fr. Munoz purchased a vacant house at 2341 Holly Street where he established a religious facility and held Mass. This event marked the founding of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, named for the patron saint of Mexico. Fr. Munoz remained the only Spanish-speaking priest in Kansas City at the time and for this reason alone, he attracted more and more Hispanics to the neighborhood.

In less than a year, Fr. Munoz held Mass for over 200 parishioners. Due to the continued growth of the community, it was necessary for Fr. Munoz to find a larger space. Subsequently, in 1919, The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe moved into an existing church located at 23rd and Madison streets, originally occupied by the Swedish Lutherans. Fr. Munoz's calling to help displaced Mexicans find homes across America led to his departure in 1926 to begin a parish in Michigan where he continued his work among the immigrants.⁵

The Agnes Ward Amberg Club

The rapid growth of the Hispanic population in Kansas City created an immense need for social welfare. The Catholic Diocese responded quickly to this need by enlisting the help of the newly formed Agnes Ward Amberg Club for Women. This volunteer group of Kansas City women helped establish a school and clinic to aid members of the Hispanic community in their struggle to assimilate into American society. The facility was for the use of all people in the neighborhood without discrimination of creed or color.⁶

The Agnes Ward Amberg Club was a group of Catholic women consisting of teachers and business women who had an interest in helping the growing Hispanic community to thrive. The club was named after Agnes Ward Amberg, a social worker who "established a Sunday school in the west-side Italian colony in Chicago" in the late 1890s.⁷ By 1913, Mrs. Amberg established the Guardian Angel Center, a settlement house in Chicago. The center contained a library, sewing classrooms, and a boy's club. Mrs. Amberg was also the leading force behind the Christ Child Society of Chicago whose mission was to provide charitable works "to the destitute children of the poor

⁵ *The Kansas City Star*, 17 July 1941.

⁶ E. B. Knauf, Renee A. Berger and Sandra T. Gray, "Guadalupe Center: Leadership That Heals," *Profiles in Excellence*, (Baltimore, Independent Sector Publications, 1991), 59-63.

⁷ *The Agnes Amberg Club: 1919*, Guadalupe Center Records, Folder 11, Pamphlet, Special Collection #20, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri, 2-6.

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regardless of race, color or creed...[in 1919] the society showed 1,530 members and 1,868 children clothed."⁸

In the summer of 1918, a summer school in Kansas City's "Mexican colony" was urgently needed. Eighteen young Catholic women of Kansas City volunteered their services for the operation of a summer school in Kansas City's Westside. By 1919 the membership had grown to over one hundred and the activities that the club sponsored were primarily directed toward Guadalupe's Hispanic colony.⁹

Kansas City's Amberg Club facilitated a variety of activities. A Mexican night school was established to teach English and other work skills to newly immigrated adults; a sewing school held on Saturday mornings taught young Hispanic girls how to make towels, bags, aprons and other articles of clothing. Sunday school was established in order to offer religious training to the young Hispanics that attended public schools. Summer schools were established in both the Hispanic and Italian colonies located in Kansas City and included classes in sewing, rug weaving, manual training, music and folk dancing. English was taught to children and later to adults who expressed a strong desire to learn the language of their new home. Home visitation was offered in the Hispanic district to check up on children absent from the Parochial school and to look in on bedridden members of the community. The Hospital Committee visited hospitals and helped to supply interpreters in an effort to ensure proper care for members of the Hispanic community.¹⁰

Also under the auspices of the Amberg Club was the Catholic Instruction League, which was formed to instruct Christian Doctrine to Catholic children. Father John M. Lyons, S. J. of Holy Family Church of Chicago came to Kansas City in the spring of 1918. With the intent to establish a similar program in Kansas City, Father Lyons found the Agnes Ward Amberg Club already in operation. He chose to place several centers

⁸ *Ibid.* Throughout the United States, social welfare needs were met through what has become known as the "settlement house." These houses were established to help the influx of immigrants adjust to the American social structure. One of the objectives of the settlement leaders was the need to assimilate the immigrants into American society without loss to their ethnic heritage. Forerunners of the neighborhood center, the settlement house developed in England in 1884 and spread to the United States in 1886 in the heyday of the Progressive Era. The most famous settlement house in the U.S. was Chicago's Hull House, founded by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr. Notable settlement houses that served the Hispanic community included The Rose Gregory Houchen Settlement, El Paso and the Mexican Christian Institute (later the Inman Institute), San Antonio.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

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under their administration including St. Stanislaus Polish Parish; St. Patrick's Parish; Holy Rosary Parish and the [Mexican] Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Amberg Club provided teachers for Catholic instruction classes.¹¹

The programs offered by the women of the Amberg Club were operated solely through volunteer efforts. During the first few years of operation, Center funding came from generous donations and aid from the Catholic Diocese. The community also contributed their share through fund raising festivals that included traditional foods, music and dancing. The Amberg Club assumed the financial responsibility of stocking and maintaining the center along with religious instructions and English language classes. The ladies enlisted the aid of the Visiting Nurse Association to furnish a nurse for the clinic. A full time interpreter during clinic hours was also hired.¹²

Since the center was tightly connected to the Catholic Diocese, help often came from Catholic churches and schools.¹³ In 1921, the Amberg Club requested that the Catholic schools of Kansas City assist them in gathering food for Christmas baskets. Notre Dame di Sion, located on 39th Street, put together the baskets but the Sisters could not leave the convent to deliver the food. They contacted Dorothy Gallagher, a lay teacher at the time, to assist with the deliveries. Miss Gallagher, a staunch supporter of Guadalupe, remained at the Center until 1944 (see below).¹⁴

The Development of the Guadalupe Center

In 1919, the volunteers of the Agnes Ward Amberg Club established the Guadalupe Neighborhood Center, to take on the needs of the newly settled Hispanic community. The Amberg Club had secured funds for the Guadalupe Center through the Community Chest.¹⁵ This move helped to stabilize the funding necessary to insure the Center's ability to provide essential services. It provided funds to help all residents of the Westside regardless of color or religious affiliations. Still in existence today, the Guadalupe Center appears to be the oldest, continually operating social service agency for Hispanics in the country.¹⁶

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Dorothy Gallagher, "Mexican Welfare Work in Kansas City," *Catholic Action*, September 1937, (N.P.), 20.

¹³ "Guadalupe Center Transferred to Diocese," *The Kansas City Star* 26 January 1944. 1-2.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ The Community Chest of Kansas City was the predecessor to the Heart of America United Way.

¹⁶ Robin Garr, *Reinvesting in America: The Grassroots Movements That Are Feeding The Hungry, Housing The Homeless And Putting Americans Back To Work* (Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1995), 112.

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When the Guadalupe Center opened its doors to the community, Hispanics were not accepted for medical treatment by the existing health agencies in Kansas City. Responding to this critical need, Guadalupe organized a health care clinic for the community. A "Well-Baby" care center was the foundation of this early clinic and was located on the lower floor of Fr. Munoz's church at 23rd and Madison. As the community needs grew and the clinic began having problems with maintaining sufficient volunteer staffing, the Most Reverend Thomas F. Lillis, Bishop of Kansas City Archdiocese, decided to allow the Agnes Ward Amberg Club to manage the facility.¹⁷

To help accommodate the growing needs of this early clinic, the Amberg Club acquired a small frame house at 907 W. 23rd Street, next to the church. The clinic moved into its new home under the management and leadership of the women's club. The clinic was located on the second floor and the first floor was used for recreation activities. Funds to provide furnishings and heat were contributed by both Catholic and Protestant sources.¹⁸

Dorothy Gallagher's interest and dedication to the Hispanic community began with her delivery of Christmas baskets in 1921 and lasted long after her departure from the Guadalupe Center in 1944. For eighteen years, from 1926-1944, Miss Gallagher was the full time resident director.¹⁹ She received no salary and, often with her mother and sister, Mary Louise, donated generously from the family's fortune. Her dedication to helping the Hispanic community adjust to American society without losing their own colorful heritage helped lay the foundation for the mission that the Guadalupe Center maintains to this day.

In 1923 the Gallagher family purchased five houses located between 1013 and 1023 W. 23rd Street for the exclusive use of the Guadalupe Center, as extra space was needed to handle additional activities. To allow for much needed outdoor activities, two of the five houses were demolished. The remaining three homes, renovated by members of the Hispanic community, were painted white and were referred to as the "Casas Blancas."

¹⁷ Enrique A Chaurand. "Whew! Where has the time gone?" *Barrio Bulletin*, January 1994, (Kansas City: Guadalupe Center, 1994), 1.

¹⁸ Dorothy Elizabeth Hoffman. "Service Rendered to Mexican Groups in Kansas City Missouri Through Guadalupe Center." Thesis, Master of Arts in the Graduate School of the University of Missouri, 1938, 60-62. Kansas City, Missouri: Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library.

¹⁹ Miss Gallagher resided at the center. Her address was often given at 907 W. 23rd Street. However, once the building was completed in 1936, an apartment was furnished for her on the second floor of the west wing. It was reported that Saturday was the one-day of the week that she spent away from the center while she visited her mother's house at 5235 Rockhill Road.

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The Amberg Clinic and main offices remained at 907 W. 23rd Street, while the classrooms moved into the newly acquired space. One house was set up for a Boys Club where classes in shop and woodworking were taught. Boy Scout meetings were held there when the young boys of the community decided that they needed their own scout troop. For a brief period, Miss Gallagher served as their scoutmaster.²⁰ Girls were given space in another house for homemaking classes. This building was equipped with a kitchen and sewing center where classes in home economics were taught.²¹ According to area statistics, by 1924 eighteen Hispanic families had become "homeowners" in the area. As the community grew, the Center continued to expand the clinic.²²

As a contact agency, the Guadalupe Center acted as an interpreter whenever and wherever it was necessary to provide a liaison between the Hispanic and non-Hispanic community. This service eventually required full time staffing and was just one of the many services that funds from the Community Chest helped to provide. By 1928 this all-important service proved to the Board of Health that, with the assistance of Spanish speaking caseworkers, Hispanics could be treated at General Hospital.²³

During the late 1920s Miss Gallagher took a brief leave of absence from her duties as director of the Guadalupe Center while she completed courses in social work that she would later apply toward a master's degree.²⁴ In an interview in 1939, Miss Gallagher discussed her role as a social worker within the Hispanic community of Kansas City. She felt the experience "...prepared [her] to give something to the people in Kansas City that [she] had become so interested in."²⁵ At the Center, she described her job as helping the community "build their American lives on their own cultural patterns."²⁶

It was with this spirit and dedication that Dorothy Gallagher continued her work at Guadalupe. By the 1930s the Guadalupe Center became the host of regular celebrations as well as major fund raising events. From an Easter celebration in 1929 given for the

²⁰ Hoffman, "Service Rendered..." 60- 62.

²¹ Ibid. 63.

²² "History of the Guadalupe Center," Guadalupe Center Records, Folder 8, Special Collection #20, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri, 1-3.

²³ "Foreigners In Kansas City," *The Kansas City Star* 17 November 1939. Microfilm, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

²⁴ Dorothy Gallagher, "A Case Study of the Agnes Ward Amberg Club of Kansas City, Missouri." 1929, 10. Manuscript, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

²⁵ "Foreigners In Kansas City," *The Kansas City Star* 17 November 1939. Microfilm, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

²⁶ Ibid.

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children of the community to a fiesta in 1933 given to raise funds for new playground equipment; music, song, dance, colorful costumes and food always accompanied the events. Miss Gallagher gave support and direction to help make these and similar celebrations part of the community spirit.²⁷

The success of the Amberg Club and Gallagher's efforts to instill a strong sense of community through group activities and education is strongly illustrated by the Amberg Club's annual report dated August 1927.²⁸

Group Meetings Sponsored by Amberg Club
September 1926 through August 1927

Type of Meeting	Number	Attendance
Mothers' Clubs	43	663
Young People's Socials	50	1,141
Athletics	86	2,008
Play Activities	42	457
Religious Instructions*	79	3,381
Vacation Classes	29	2,971
Special and Entertainment	75	1,398
Totals	404	12,019

* This figure includes both children and adults.

In 1931 the number of organized meetings reached the one thousand mark and over the next decade, several new clubs were established. In April 1931 the girls were given their own scout troop sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. "Knights of the Round Table" became a regular club for the Hispanic boys under the direction of Miss Gallagher. Eventually a local business owner, Frank Houston, was officially initiated into the group after he generously donated sporting equipment and pool tables for the club's use. Later the group began publishing an in house newsletter called *The Knights Spear*, with the help of both Gallagher and Houston.²⁹ "Grupo Artistico" was a recreational club for both boys and girls. Miss Eleanor Johnson taught music and dance

²⁷ *The Kansas City Star* 1927-1936. Microfilm, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri

²⁸ Hoffman. "Services Rendered..." 62.

²⁹ Ibid 78.

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that "centered around national music and allied arts."³⁰ The important factor that was always considered when a new group or class was started, was that the idea originated from the Hispanic community and never from the settlement agency leaders.³¹

During the height of the Great Depression, the activities at Guadalupe never slowed. Throngs of people poured into the center day and night throughout the summer and into the winter months. By 1935 it became evident that a new building to suit the specific needs of the community was needed.³² The decision was made to build a facility that would handle combined activities under one roof. Up until this point all physical activity such as sporting events, was held outside of the community.

A New Guadalupe Center, 1015 W. 23rd Street (now Avenida de Cesar Chavez)

In December 1934, the Staff News reported that the plans for a "Spanish hacienda" had been prepared by Kansas City architects Raney and Corman of the "Harvey Spanish Hotels On the Way West."³³ Because the Amberg Club was unable to handle the responsibility of a building fund campaign, Miss Gallagher made the decision to finance the project herself. Dorothy and Mary Louise Gallagher purchased the 100' x 130' lot at 1015 W. 23rd Street. It was also decided to demolish two of the three frame houses of the Casas Blancas and incorporate the third house into the design of the new facility.³⁴ The Gallaghers would then lease the building to the Club on an annual basis.³⁵

Dorothy Gallagher remained strongly committed to seeing that the Hispanic community retained its ethnic character. It was her decision to design the new facility in the style of Spanish Mission architecture. With this in mind, she and her sister Mary Louise hired Robert Raney to design the new building while Frank H. Pavlik was chosen as builder. At a cost of \$21,000, the new facility was completed in 1936.³⁶ The building design included multiple levels consisting of one and two story wings with a basement throughout. Construction material called for either cinderblock or Haydite™ with a red

³⁰ Ibid. 65.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid. 87.

³³ Staff News, December 1934. Microfilm, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

³⁴ *The Kansas City Star* 10 February 1935, n.p. Microfilm, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Landmarks Commission of Kansas City Missouri, "Guadalupe Center," *Kansas City: A Place In Time* (Kansas City: Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, 1977), 194.

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tile roof. The original building plans included a gymnasium, dining room, kitchen, auditorium, club rooms and office space.³⁷

More than likely caused by funding issues, construction delays occurred. Although the architectural firm was chosen in December 1934, the new Guadalupe Center was not dedicated until September 30, 1936. Invitations for the formal opening were issued to members of the center, representatives of other parishes and Catholic organizations, as well as Chamber of Commerce members and government officials of Kansas City.

According to the original plans by Raney and Corman, the front entrance opened to a lobby. The caseworker's office was located directly across from the entrance. To the left was a living space with a fireplace that was decorated with Mexican heirlooms, art and crafts. The linoleum floor was inlaid in the pattern, design and color of a traditional Navajo rug. On the right side of the lobby was a meeting room for informal gatherings. One wall of this room held built-in cupboards that contained children's artwork and supplies. It also contained an "upright piano, a victrola [sic], tables, chairs, and several sewing machines... Behind this room was the kitchen with modern equipment for cooking classes."³⁸

The west wing originally featured the office of the girl's group worker and the kindergarten classroom. The basement was utilized as a workshop space for the boys' groups. The second floor was reserved for living quarters for the house staff members, which consisted of Miss Gallagher, an assistant and a housekeeper. At some point it was decided not to build a gymnasium as originally planned. Instead, the Club opted to build it as a separate building at a later date on the lot east of the new building.³⁹

The funding for program maintenance remained essentially unchanged. The Community Chest continued to budget money for the salaries of the social workers as well as the boys and girls' group workers. It also paid for the heating, lighting and janitorial services. The Chest paid for all of the winter projects while the Amberg Club supported the summer activities. Private donations were a boost to the budget as well. A very important aspect of funding came from the community itself. In the spring, members sponsored parties, which raised money to purchase supplies, operate the vacation school and pay for extra help during emergencies.⁴⁰

³⁷ *Western Contractor*, 20 February 1935.

³⁸ Hoffman. "Services Rendered..." 90.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid. 92.

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Both the Club and the Center held affiliated memberships with larger organizations. The Amberg Club had membership in the local Community Chest, Council of Catholic Women, and the Jackson County Chapter of the Missouri Welfare Association. Guadalupe Center held just one membership. They chose the Kansas City Association of Neighborhood Houses and were the only members in the area that employed a full time caseworker.⁴¹

Guadalupe Center: 1944 – 2002

For over twenty years the Amberg Club maintained its own board of directors who managed the Guadalupe Center. Subsequently, when the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph purchased Guadalupe in 1944, a male board of directors replaced the Amberg Club. This new governing board of directors reported to Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara.⁴² After the Center was placed under the control of the Diocese it decided to incorporate.

During the period between 1950-1960, Guadalupe had one of its most prosperous decades and was one of the most successful and productive non-profit organizations in the Kansas City area.⁴³ By 1972, disagreements on how the Center should operate became a major issue between the board of directors and the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph, the latter feeling that they had the final say. To break ties with the Diocese, the board of directors ignored them and in 1974, Guadalupe Center rented space from the county and moved into a new home at 2641 Belleview.

The years following the split from the Diocese were somewhat tumultuous. Through success and failure alike, the community continued to press forward. From helping at-risk students during the 1980s school-closing crisis, the establishment of a premium day care facility, legal advocacy, job placement, to forming scholarship foundations, the Center remained true to the original vision that Miss Gallagher and the Amberg Club helped them identify so many years before.⁴⁴

In 1991 Guadalupe Center was able to purchase the original building at 1015 W. 23rd Street (now called Avenida de Cesar Chavez) from the Catholic diocese. In 1992 they entered a partnership with Our Lady of Guadalupe School as co-directors. Since

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² *The Kansas City Star* 9 February 1944, n.p. Microfilm, Special Collections, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

⁴³ Chaurand. "Whew..." 1.

⁴⁴ Ibid. 3.

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then, new programs in crime prevention, substance abuse, and a policy center have enhanced the variety of programs that the Center offered.⁴⁵ Today, Guadalupe remains one of the strongest ethnic social organizations and possibly the oldest settlement agency still in existence. While the community has reached beyond the Mexican immigrants that arrived in Kansas City between 1910-1920 to include other Latin American nationals, the community remains strongly attached to its Hispanic roots.

Father Munoz laid the foundations of the community in 1914 and Dorothy Gallagher's devotion to a culture she adopted, built the structure that it has maintained into the new millennium. At the age of 83 years, Guadalupe continues to find a youthful strength in the support it both gives and receives within the Latino community.

Dorothy Gallagher (1894-1982)

Dorothy Gallagher was born in 1894 in Kansas City. She graduated from Trinity College, Washington D. C., in 1915. On returning to Kansas City, she took a position at the French Institute of Notre Dame di Sion teaching history in the new high school. When she delivered the Christmas baskets in 1921, her knowledge of Kansas City's Hispanic community was limited. During the following summer, she volunteered her time to teach summer classes and provided other charitable acts throughout the year. She became so enamored with Kansas City's Hispanic immigrants, she decided to devote her time and energy to helping the community full-time. Gallagher spent a year in Europe as a teacher of English at a social center in Paris and a summer attending the New York School of Social Work. Her time in New York included active participation at the Henry Street Settlement House that served a large immigrant community in that city.

Miss Gallagher was the daughter of John Anthony and Florence Nightingale Gallagher. Her father was president of Faxon-Gallagher Drug Company and Faxon & Gallagher Building Company. Dorothy was one of four children. When John Gallagher died from heart failure in February 1923, his will stated that his fortune was to be placed in trust until March 1930. During the period of trusteeship, the surviving members of his family were to receive monthly allowances. They were also granted stock retention in Faxon and Gallagher Drug Company until 1960. Miss Gallagher's mother and one brother were named joint executors of the estate. As heir to a sizable fortune, Miss Gallagher was in a position that allowed her to devote her life to the Guadalupe Center.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ "J. A. Gallagher's Will Filed: All Property of the Late Drug President Goes to Family," From the Herbert Perry Wright Papers, Western Historic Manuscript Collection #KC013, University of Missouri Kansas City.

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In 1944, the Gallagher sisters sold the Guadalupe Center to the Catholic Diocese and Dorothy Gallagher decided to return to school to complete her master's degree in social work. The Center remained under the direction of the Amberg Club. Miss Gallagher's decision undoubtedly was based on the growing need for social welfare workers in the years following World War II. The diocese gave the Gallaghers about one-half of the actual valuation of the building in payment for the property.⁴⁷

To say thank you and good-bye, the community threw a surprise fiesta in Miss Gallagher's honor on February 6, 1944.⁴⁸ In 1957, referred to as the community's fairy godmother, Miss Gallagher received an award from the Missouri Association for Social Welfare for her outstanding dedication and service for the founding of the Guadalupe Center. Dorothy Gallagher died in 1982.

The Architectural Firm of Raney and Corman

Biographical information on the Kansas City firm of Raney and Corman is sketchy. It appears that Robert Raney's early practice in Kansas City included a residence at 2525 Hardesty designed in 1916. At this time Raney was in partnership with Dumas. In April 1916, the book "My Architect" was published listing Raney and Dumas as co-authors. Raney and Dumas, who maintained an office in the Hudson Press Building at 22nd and Gillham Road, also designed several buildings for businessman George Bowling, one at 1119-1121 Campbell and another at 1825-27 McGee Street.⁴⁹

Raney and Botkin succeeded the firm of Raney and Dumas in 1917. In 1927 Raney designed St. Elizabeth's School at 75th and Main. In 1952 Raney had taken on Don

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ *The Kansas City Times* 7 February 1944, n.p. Microfilm, Special Collections, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

⁴⁹ Vertical File. Western Historic Manuscripts, University of Missouri Kansas City.

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F. Tuel as partner, designing an addition to the school, and in 1956, the St. Elizabeth's Convent house.⁵⁰

In 1935 when Dorothy Gallagher was seeking the services of an architect to plan for the new Guadalupe Center, Raney was in practice with Corman at the Fred Harvey offices at Union Station. At this time, both men were listed in the city directory as staff architects for the Harvey Company. This was during the period that Mary Elizabeth Coulter, one of the Harvey Company's most prominent architects, headed the firm's architectural division.⁵¹

⁵⁰ Vertical File, Western Historic Manuscripts, University of Missouri, Kansas City.

⁵¹ "Architects," Vertical File, Special Collections, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Missouri.

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Verbal Boundary Description

(Tract 1): Lots 46, 47, 48, 49; and Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 2, FAIRMOUNT PARK, a subdivision in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, and the vacated alley lying between said Lots 47, 48, 49 and 50; and Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4; and the North 9.00 feet lying between said Lot 46 and Lot 5, of said FAIRMOUNT PARK.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Guadalupe Center, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

Key to Photographs:

All photographs were taken by David Everson and Len Fohn, August 2002 and November 2002. All large format negatives are the property of Architectural and Historical Research, LLC, Kansas City, MO

1. The main or north façade; view facing south (prior to start of construction, August 2002).
2. The main or north façade; view facing south.
3. The north and east façades; view facing west, southwest.
4. The south and east façades; view facing west, northwest.
5. The west façade and a portion of the north façade; view facing east, southeast.
6. The west and south façades; view facing northeast.
7. The first floor; view facing northeast.
8. The second floor; view facing northeast.

GUADALUPE
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